

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method for ~~determining~~ estimating a parameter of interest
2 of an earth formation with a ~~logging~~ tool having a nuclear radiation source ~~for~~
3 ~~irradiating said earth formation~~ and a nuclear radiation detector spaced apart from
4 the nuclear radiation source ~~for making measurements resulting from interaction~~
5 of said ~~irradiation with said earth formation~~, the method comprising:
6 (a) activating the nuclear radiation source;
7 ~~(a)~~ (b) defining a starting time for a processing time window at which ~~said~~
8 measurements made by the nuclear radiation detector are responsive
9 primarily to ~~said~~ the parameter of interest;
10 ~~(b)~~ (c) defining an ending time for ~~said~~ the processing time window at which said
11 measurements are substantially uncontaminated by noise; and
12 ~~(c)~~(d) analyzing said measurements within ~~said~~ the processing time window for
13 ~~determining~~ estimating the parameter of interest.
14
- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein defining said start time further
2 comprises determining a time at which a value of said measurements has a

3 predetermined relationship to a determined value of a parameter of interest at an
4 ending time of a processing time window for an earlier operation of said source.

5

1 3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 1 wherein ~~said~~ the nuclear radiation
2 source comprises a pulsed neutron source.

3

1 4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 1 wherein ~~said~~ the measurements
2 made by the nuclear radiation detector comprise gamma ray measurements.

3

1 5. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein ~~said~~ the parameter of interest
2 further comprises at least one of (i) a thermal neutron capture cross section of said
3 the earth formation, (ii) porosity, (iii) formation water salinity, and, (iv) the
4 quantity and type of hydrocarbons contained in pore spaces. [0005]

5

1 6. canceled

2

1 7. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said relationship is of the form

2
$$istr = K / \Sigma$$

3 where *istr* is the start time of a window, *K* is a constant, and Σ is a capture cross
4 section at said ending time of said time window for said earlier pulsing of said
5 source.

6

1 8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein defining said time window ending time
2 further comprises forming a running sum of count rates starting at said starting
3 time.

4
1 9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein defining said time window ending time
2 further comprises determining a time at which a count rate has a predetermined
3 relation to said running sum.

4
1 10. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising partitioning said window into
2 a plurality of channels (time intervals) having a length depending upon said start
3 time.

4
1 11. (currently amended) An apparatus for use within a borehole penetrating an earth
2 formation for ~~determining~~ estimating a parameter of interest of said earth
3 formation, comprising:

4 (a) a nuclear radiation source ~~for~~ irradiating said earth formation;

5 (b) a nuclear radiation detector spaced apart from said nuclear radiation source
6 ~~for making measurements resulting from interaction of said irradiation~~
7 ~~with said earth formation;~~

8 (c) a processor ~~for~~ which

9 (i) ~~defining~~ defines a starting time for a processing time window ~~for~~

10 at which said measurements made by the nuclear radiation detector

11 are responsive primarily to said parameter of interest; and
12 (ii) ~~defining~~ defines an ending time for said processing time window
13 for at which said the measurements made by the nuclear radiation
14 detector are substantially uncontaminated by noise.

15

1 12. (original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said processor defines said starting
2 time determining a time at which a value of said measurements has a
3 predetermined relation to a determined value of a parameter of interest at an
4 ending time of a time window for an earlier operation of said source.

5

1 13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said processor further analyzes said
2 measurements within said processing time window and determines said parameter
3 of interest.

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1 14. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein ~~said~~ the nuclear radiation
2 source further comprises a pulsed neutron source.

3

1 15. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein ~~said~~ the measurements
2 made by the nuclear radiation detector ~~further~~ comprise gamma ray
3 measurements.

4

1 16. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein ~~said~~ the parameter of

2 interest ~~furthet~~ comprises at least one of (i) a thermal neutron capture cross
3 section of said the earth formation, (ii) porosity, (iii)formation water salinity, and,
4 (iv) the quantity and type of hydrocarbons contained in pore spaces. [0005]
5

1 17. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said predetermined relation is of the
2 form

3
$$istr = K / \Sigma$$

4 where *istr* is the start time of a window, *K* is a constant, and Σ is a capture cross
5 section at said ending time of said time window for said earlier pulsing of said
6 source.
7

1 18. (original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said processor defines said ending
2 time based on forming a running sum of count rates starting at said starting time.
3

1 19. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein processor defines said ending based
2 on forming a running sum of count rates starting at said starting time.
3

1 20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said processor defines said ending
2 time based on determining a time at which a count rate has a predetermined
3 relation to said running sum.
4

1 21. (currently amended) A system for estimating ~~determining~~ a parameter of interest

2 from an earth formation, comprising:

3 (a) a ~~logging~~ tool including:

4 (i) a nuclear radiation source ~~for irradiating said earth formation,~~

5 (ii) at least one nuclear radiation detector spaced apart from said

6 nuclear radiation source ~~for making measurements resulting from~~

7 ~~interaction of said irradiation with said earth formation;~~

8 (b) a processing unit ~~for~~ defining a starting time and an ending time ~~for of~~ a

9 time window of analysis of ~~said~~ measurements made by the nuclear

10 radiation detector, wherein said measurements are responsive primarily to

11 said parameter of interest at said starting time and are substantially

12 uncontaminated by noise at said ending time.

13

1 22. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein said processor defines said start time

2 based on a a time at which a value of said measurements have a predetermined

3 relation to a determined value of a parameter of interest at an ending time of a

4 processing time window for an earlier operation of said source.

5

1 23. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein ~~said~~ the nuclear radiation

2 source further comprises a pulsed neutron source.

3

1 24. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein said measurements made

2 by the nuclear radiation detector further comprise gamma ray measurements.

3

1 25. (currently amended) The system of claim 22, wherein ~~said~~ the parameter of
2 interest ~~further~~ comprises at least one of (i) a thermal neutron capture cross
3 section of ~~said~~ the earth formation, (ii) porosity, (iii) formation water salinity, and,
4 (iv) the quantity and type of hydrocarbons contained in pore spaces.

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1 26. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein said predetermined relation is of the
2 form

3
$$istr = K / \Sigma$$

4 where *istr* is the start time of a window, *K* is a constant, and Σ is a capture cross
5 section at said ending time of said time window for said earlier pulsing of said
6 source.

7

1 27. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein said processor determines said ending
2 time based on forming a running sum of count rates starting at said starting time.

3

1 28. (original) The system of claim 27, wherein said processor determines said ending
2 time based on determining a time at which a count rate has a predetermined
3 relation to said running sum.

4

1 29. (new) The system of claim 21 further comprising a conveyance device which
2 conveys the tool into a borehole in the earth formation.

3

1 30. (new) The system of claim 21 wherein the conveyance device is one of (i) a
2 wireline, (ii) coiled tubing.

3

1 31. (new) The system of claim 21 further comprising a channel number generator
2 which produces a numerical sequence of memory address codes corresponding to
3 a sequence of adjacent time windows.

4

1 32. (new) The system of claim 21 further comprising a mass storage unit associated
2 with the processor.

3

1 33. (new) The system of claim 31 further comprising a spectrum accumulator.

2

1 34. (new) The system of claim 30 wherein the conveyance device comprises a
2 wireline, the system further comprising a depth controller which provides signals
3 indicative of a depth of said tool.

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